



AM 83 FM 94 TV 31
Mary Perot Nichols
Director, WNYC

One Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
212 669-7800

November 29, 1988

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I regret taking so long to reply to your disturbing letter, but I wanted to talk to everyone involved, including Kevin Walsh, before writing.

I do not believe that either of our staff members who visited you took anything unauthorized. My producer Tom Naughton and reporter Chris Bryson took only photocopies of documents for which Tom paid you, and took no photographs of any kind. They and Kevin Walsh all say that if there was misbehavior, Bob Ranftel is the suspect.

Since Tom did pay Ranftel for research work, we might have born some responsibility for his actions--except that my staff and Walsh all say that you knew and trusted Ranftel long before we ever met him. In fact, his longstanding access to your files was a factor in Tom's decision to hire him; his affiliation with our show was not what led you to admit him to your files. Tom and Chris both say they are unaware that he did anything wrong, and have had no further contact with him. Certainly nothing he may have taken was used for our program.

Although I do not believe we are responsible for any loss you incurred, I nonetheless sympathize with your feeling of betrayal, and am distressed that your experience with The Kwitny Report is associated in your mind with your apparent problem with Ranftel. I hope we will have some opportunity to redress that in the future. I do appreciate your kind comments about Endless Enemies, and hope this episode hasn't cost you the respect you express for my integrity or that of my staff. And I wish you a speedy and painless recovery from your medical problems.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kwitny
The Kwitny Report

WNYC FOUNDATION